

For Immediate Release  
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## **Route 66 Shield Adorns County Roads**

Carlinville-The famous Route 66 Turkey Tracks between Nilwood and Carlinville just got a little easier to find. In anticipation of the Route 66 Association of Illinois Motor Tour, which will travel through Macoupin County June 10, two county-owned pieces of Route 66 have been painted with the well-know Route 66 Shield.

The section of Route 66 just south of Nilwood is home to a small section of road that has turkey tracks imprinted in it from when the road was constructed. According to Macoupin County Board Member and Route 66 enthusiast Ollie Schwallenstecker, the turkey tracks are of great interest to Route 66 travelers and he often gets calls from people searching for the tracks.

It was these phone calls that led Schwallenstecker to ask his fellow county board members to allow county-owned parts of Route 66 to be stenciled with the Route 66 Shield. The board voted to allow the stenciling during the April board meeting. The other county-owned part of Route 66 is the Honey Creek bridge between Carlinville and Gillespie, just north of the Gillespie County Club. The county took over the bridge from the State of Illinois to prevent the bridge being removed.

“Other states stencil their sections of Route 66, and I felt it would be a great way to bring more visibility to Route 66 in Macoupin County,” said Schwallenstecker. He added that the shield may be painted on other parts of Route 66 in the county in the future.

The Route 66 Association of Illinois Motor Tour will travel from the north into Macoupin County on Sunday, June 10. The tour plans to stop in Carlinville to visit different historic sites before going to Staunton for lunch. Both Carlinville and Staunton are passport stops for the tour, which means tour participants will receive a stamp in their tour booklet showing that they stopped in each town.

Alderman and Tourism Chairman for Staunton Nelson Grman said local car buffs are encouraged to bring their own cars up to Main Street Staunton between 1 and 4 p.m. June 10 to show their cars with those of tour participants. Two blocks of Main Street will be blocked off for parking.

The Crystal Ballroom in Staunton is also offering tour participants a reduced admission of \$10 for the dance band playing from 4 to 7 p.m. that day, said Grman.